

**ASD Task Force
December 16, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

Task Force members present: Gerry Teevens, Connie Lillejord, Carol Johnson, Nancy Crotty-Ulrich, Dr. Tom Carver, Cathy Haarstad, JoAnne Hoesel, Carolyn Fogarty, Teresa Larson, Kim Hruby

Others present: Trisha Page, Lynn Dodge, Amanda Carlson

September meeting minutes reviewed and one change to clarify that DPI has a plan for implementing the Common Core Standards. Minutes approved as amended.

The Task Force received a suggestion that public comment be made available after each agenda item versus all at once. The task force approved this suggestion.

Update from Minot State Center for Persons with Disabilities and the SAND grant. See attachment.

Communication subcommittee

The subcommittee provided an update on their activities since September 2013. The webpage is up and running. ND.gov/DHS/Autism

The website contains a section for the ASD Task Force and meeting minutes, agendas, and products will be located there. It is a work in progress and is not final nor has all content been uploaded. Feedback is requested and appreciated ongoing.

The communication subgroup presented a new format for the ASD Task Force plan. It includes measurable outcomes and action steps. The subgroup presented a visual sample for consideration. The Task Force decided to hold a two day meeting in March 2014 with one day focused on transitioning the existing plan into this format and the second day would be the regular task force meeting. It was suggested to have a backup plan with WebEx and PolyCom. The document will be sent out prior to the meeting for review to make the meeting productive. It will be important to focus on critical versus interesting activities, specifically the items partners or task force members can do realistically with the time they have available for task force activities.

Public comment – It was recommended to measure parent support received and if the education efforts to inform parents are reaching the audience.

DSM 5

DHS is monitoring impact and in process of putting a training plan for staff in place. Three content experts will be located at each regional human service center and institution. One for developmental disabilities, addiction, and general clinical.

DPI is updating the autism guidelines using the DSM 5. Anne Carlson Center is using the DSM 5 in their diagnostic clinics. NDCPD is using the DSM 5 in their diagnostic clinics and they have observed that children that were found eligible using the DMS 4TR are also being found eligible with the DSM 5.

Public Comment – It was recommended that DSM 5 info on autism be put on website. Copy write restrictions will be reviewed to determine if that is possible. Parents are very confused due to some agencies using the new version and some not. Question on whether new evaluations in schools will be required and concern that service may be lost. In response to this question, DPI indicated there will be no mandate from DPI to use the new version and it was recommended that parents contact local district on their specific transition plans.

Department of Health Update – They are working with other states, especially New Jersey, on database implementation issues. They are looking at criteria for inclusion on database and job description. They purposefully are advertising for the position over the holidays due to concern on a low applicant pool. They hope to fill position by February 2014.

Public Comment – It was recommended that a public meeting be held to inform parents on the registry. There was a question on terminology – ‘registry’ versus ‘database’. Question on how they will handle those already diagnosed. DOH indicated that this will need to be addressed through administrative rule. Administrative rules have not been started to be written.

There was a reminder that the database is part of the comprehensive approach to developing autism services in North Dakota. There will be power in this information.

Training Update– Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Human Services (DHS)

The autism conference is scheduled for October 20-22, 2014. The audience for this conference is medical providers, parents, teachers, day care, etc. One keynote per day is planned. The parent training portion will include the parent component to TEECH. Conference will support itself with attendance fees and vendors so hope appropriated funds go further.

Trisha Page, state autism coordinator, shared free resources for on-line autism modules.

Autisminternetmodules.org The modules appear to be positive – DHS will need to put a disclaimer on their website indicating that placement on website does not infer support.

Public Comment - Asked if a call for speakers will be issued? Asked how we are determining items to be reputable and evidence-based? Agency in Fargo and Moorhead uses the mentioned modules for their staff and parents.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Update

Medicaid Autism Waiver -2 public Information meetings the week of December 15, 2013 to share the changes in the amended waiver and gain input from attendees. The timeline for amendment to be

submitted is Jan 2nd which will follow by 30 day Tribal notification. The information will be posted on website. After the Tribal notification and public comment period, it will be submitted to Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and they have a 90 day review period. The earliest the amended waiver can go into effect is June 1st.

Autism specific waiver as amended is more autism-friendly in its service offerings. Identified new services, their definitions, and viewed flow of referral and access.

Public Comment – requested to recycle slots if possible –Make sure appeal process is clear – the existing DD traditional waiver appears to have inconsistencies. Considering an increased rate for services provided where there is a shortage of providers and they will have to travel.

DHSs shared that they will check into recycling of the waiver slots but that budget tracking will be a consideration along with CMS approval. It was emphasized that there is a difference between having an autism diagnosis and meeting the institutional level of care required to receive Medicaid waiver services. Respite care will be self-directed or provider-directed in the amended waiver.

Autism Waiver Transition – The waiver amendment prioritized the waiver participants as recommended by the ASD Task Force, those in the current waiver first priority, second are those that aged out of the current waiver and are still within the age range of the amended waiver, followed by first come-first serve.

Autism Voucher update – The voucher work is in process. This program will go into effect July of 2014. The Autism Services Unit is writing program administrative rules and working on the related program items.

Department of Public Instruction (DPI)- They have a committee working on updating autism guidelines – national technical assistance center Utah – – Bill Johnson facilitator –1 meeting so far – Next Meeting January 2014. Training will be provided after the guidelines are completed. Common Core State Standards – means there will be a new state assessment. They are working with several consortiums to assist.

Public Comment – how many districts have autism coordinators? Very few – West Fargo is rare.

Anne Carlson Center - Has provided training at Standing Rock on Autism 101 – about 80 people attended. They have helped set up a couple of classrooms and their diagnostic clinics referrals are multiplying – Their schedule is out over 4 months – There is much need for evaluation.

Development Homes – They plan on providing the 2nd annual Autism awareness event.

Dr. Carver – He has participated in the clinical part of the GPIC. He is back logged with his own patients for clinic appointment – He is working with the pediatric group to encourage them to use autism screening tools - 3 out of 8 are screening.

